

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FACING DICTATORS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 1, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is encouraging that America's valued European allies are facing the Dictators with Rule of Gun invading Democracies with Rule of Law. The Axis of Evil war criminal Putin, the regime in Tehran, and the Chinese Communist Party are being recognized for their murderous conduct and threats.

Last week I served on bipartisan delegations to Munich, Nuremberg, and Vienna.

The Munich Security Conference delegation was led by Chairman MIKE TURNER with Ranking Member JIM HIMES. For 60 years, the Conference has been an extraordinary forum for world leaders to provide their policies with many side meetings.

Opening day was gruesomely coincided with the announcement of the assassination of Alexey Navalny by war criminal Putin. His widow Yulia Navalnaya courageously spoke to proclaim the efforts to resist Putin's oppression of the Russian people will continue.

Highlights of our Saturday, February 17th meetings at the Munich Security Conference were Chairman MIKE TURNER hosting a "Conversation" with the Mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko, the American German Institute at Johns Hopkins policy discussion with German Minister of Defense Boris Pistorius, a speech by Vice President Kamala Harris, a U.S.-Netherlands meeting with Dutch Ministers Kasja Ollongren of Defense and Hanke Bruins Slot of Foreign Affairs, U.S.-German meeting with Chancellor Olaf Scholz, the U.S.-Ukraine meeting with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, a U.S.-Iraq meeting with Prime Minister Shia' Al Sudani, a briefing by U.S. European Commander General Christopher Cavoli, and concluding with a dinner featuring former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, with Prime Minister Nikolay Denkov of Bulgaria, and Deputy Prime Minister Olha Stefanishyna of Ukraine, as we later met President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan.

The next day, on Sunday, February 18th at the Munich Security Conference, key meetings included a U.S.-Swedish bilateral session with Swedish Minister of Defense Pal Johnson, a breakfast meeting on national security challenges in space with former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, a U.S.-Romania bilateral meeting with Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Luminita Odobescu, a U.S.-Ukrainian bilateral meeting with Ukrainian parliamentarians led by Yehor Cherniev, and a meeting featuring former General and CIA Director David Petraeus.

In the afternoon, as the Chair of the Commission on Cooperation and Security in Europe, I hosted the Commission's first-ever side event at the Munich Security Conference with the U.S. Ambassador to the OSCE, Michael Carpenter. The lunch discussion on the future

of international institutions and U.S. support brought together Congressional and international organization leaders. Our international participants included Helga Schmid, Secretary General of OSCE; Mircea Geoana, Deputy Secretary General of NATO; Boris Ruge, NATO Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy; Stephen Biegun, Senior Vice President for Global Public Policy, Boeing Company; Michael Georg Link, Member of Bundestag, Coordinator of Transatlantic Cooperation; Ambassador Gesa Brautigam, Special Envoy for Feminist Foreign Policy and Human Rights, German Foreign Office; Majda Ruge, Senior Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations; and Fabrizio Micalizzi, Chief of Staff to Coordinator of Transatlantic Cooperation, Bundestag. In addition to myself and Ambassador Carpenter, the U.S. delegation was honored to include Congressman LLOYD DOGGETT, Congresswoman VICTORIA SPARTZ, and Margaret Grun Kibben, Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Afterwards, en route to Nuremberg, the U.S. delegation presented a wreath in memory of the over 41,000 murdered at the Dachau Concentration Camp during the Nazi Holocaust targeting the Jewish people and others opposing Hitler's genocidal policies. Mr. Karl Freller, Director of the Bavarian Memorial Foundation, expert guide Alex Pearman, and Press Officer Verena Bieri provided the gruesome history of the infamous camp.

At Nuremberg, the delegation met with Ukrainian community refugees at the German-American Institute welcomed by Professor Andreas Falke, Director of the German-American Institute in Nuremberg.

Tuesday, February 20th, it was historic to host a field hearing at the Nuremberg Palace of Justice Courthouse, Room 600, where the Nazi war criminals were tried after World War II. The U.S. Organization for Cooperation in Europe delegation was bi-cameral with Senator THOM TILLIS (NC) and bi-partisan with Congressman LLOYD DOGGETT (TX) and recorded testimony by Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, as well as Congresswoman VICTORIA SPARTZ (IN), and Congressman ANDY HARRIS (MD). This was a field hearing to examine how best to bring Russian perpetrators to account for their war crimes in Ukraine.

The hearing was opened with welcoming remarks from Ukrainian President Zelenskyy, who, addressing the hearing in a video, said "No war can be truly ended without bringing to justice those thugs responsible for sparking this war, killing, and torching, deporting children and adults . . . When determination arises and justice prevails, the aggressor falls and evil gets punished. Action makes a difference." Other welcoming remarks were given by Professor Christoph Safferling, Director of the Nuremberg Academy; Mr. Marcus König, Lord Mayor of the City of Nuremberg; Tobias Winkler, Member of the Bundestag; Ms. Angelika Schlunck, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Justice of Germany (pre-recorded video); and Dr. Georg Eisenreich, Minister of Justice of Bavaria (pre-recorded

video). Panelists included: Andriy Kostin, Prosecutor General of Ukraine; Prof. Veronika Bilková, OSCE Moscow Mechanism Rapporteur, Head of the Department of International Law, Faculty of Law of the Charles University; Roman Avramenko, Director of Truth Hounds; Roksolana Burianenko, Program Manager, Ukrainian Archive, Mnemonic; Dr. Gabija Grigaitė-Daugird, Deputy Minister of Justice, Lithuania; Professor Christoph Safferling, Director of the International Nuremberg Principles Academy; and Both van Schaack, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice.

Following the hearing, the delegation was given a tour of the Nuremberg Palace of Justice, including the office used by U.S. Justice Robert H. Jackson, who was the Chief U.S. prosecutor for the international Nuremberg trials in the 1940s, by Judge Stephan Husemann, Judge at the Higher Regional Court of Nuremberg, and Dr. Thomas Dickert, President of the Higher Regional Court of Nuremberg.

On Wednesday February 21st, the CODEL met with IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi to discuss Iran and nuclear proliferation as well as the condition and safety concerns of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine. The CODEL was accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Laura Holgate, U.S. Ambassador to the Vienna Office of the United Nations and to the International Atomic Energy Agency. They also met with staff of UNODC to discuss concerns about the vulnerability of Ukrainian refugees to human trafficking, including from the Research and Trend Analysis Branch: Angela Me, Branch Chief; and Fabrizio Sarrica, Research Coordinator; as well as from the Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section: Ilias Chatzis, Chief of Section; Panagiotis Papadimitriou, Team Leader Technical Cooperation; and Silke Albert, Team Leader Child Trafficking and Survivor Engagement.

The CODEL later received a very informative briefing by U.S. Ambassador Michael Carpenter, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, on developments in the OSCE. Ambassador Carpenter has been very effective and will be missed as he now has White House service.

On Thursday February 22nd, I chaired the bipartisan U.S. delegation to the 23rd Winter Meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA) in Vienna, Austria. More than 230 parliamentarians from 54 countries participated in the meeting, which took place in the runup to the second-anniversary of Russia's illegal full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. Our delegation joined with other like-minded parliamentarians to showcase broad-based international solidarity with Ukraine in its fight to repel the Putin invasion and restore Ukraine's territorial integrity. In addition, there was attention to the assassination of democratic opposition leader Alexei

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Navalny in a Siberian gulag, which underscores the Putin oppression of Russian citizens.

During the course of the sessions, the delegation was grateful to host and meet with: President Pia Kauma of Finland, Secretary General Roberto Montella, and Ukrainian Head of Delegation Mykyta Poturaiev.

It was appreciated to meet with Ambassador Peter Burian, former Foreign Minister and Ambassador to the United States for Slovakia, and the successful host of the Fall Assembly in Yerevan, Parliamentarian Sargis Khandanyan of Armenia.

I was grateful to moderate a side event titled "Enforcing the Sanctions Against Russia" co-sponsored by the Norwegian and Ukrainian delegations. The panel featured Erlend B. Bjoertvedt, sanctions expert Corisk consultancy; Bill Browder, Head of the Global Magnitsky Justice Campaign; and Gunnar M. Ekelove-Slydal, Executive Director of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee.

Our delegation, joined by Congressman BRAD SCHNEIDER, held a bilateral meeting with members of the Israeli Knesset MK Ram Ben Barak (Yesh Atid Party), MK Hanoch Dov Milwidsky (Likud Party), and Israeli Permanent Representative to the OSCE David Roet.

We also held a bilateral meeting with the Romanian delegation, including Romanian Head of Delegation Dan Barna, MP Hajdu Gabor, MP Christine Thellmann, and Romanian Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna Stelian Stoian.

As we look back on this important and historic trip, I want to add my special thanks to the educated OSCE staff that helped make it possible, including Janice Helwig, Everett Price, Marcus Micheli, Jennifer McCuiston, Paul Massaro, Rachel Bauman, Mike Geffroy, Bakhti Nishanov, and Steven Schrage.

Especially important is the incredible work and service of the excellent team of Marines who led the complex logistics of the trip, particularly MGySgt Wesley Helms, GySgt Catalina Delgado, and 2nd Lt Lauren Anderson.

They and, and all of the individuals above, helped bring critical attention and energy to the historic challenges we face as we stand against dictators and the rule of gun, and for democracy and the rule of law, in Europe and the wider world.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN MICHIGAN'S 11TH DISTRICT

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 1, 2024

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the wisdom of an inspiring figure, Dr. Eddie Connor, as we conclude 2024 Black History Month. Dr. Connor delivered remarks in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January, and his words inspire me as we continue the important work to create a more equitable society.

It is an honor to learn from so many influential leaders about this important history. From the Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage in Alabama to local leaders in Michigan's 11th District, I am moved by the stories and insight

that has been shared with me. Dr. Connor is one of those figures that I am proud to highlight. He is a 16-time best-selling author, international speaker, survivor of stage four cancer, and founder of the mentoring program Boys 2 Books.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the tapestry of communities in Oakland County that make up Michigan's 11th District. It was a pleasure to celebrate Black History Month with so many remarkable people, and it is my honor to amplify the powerful remarks from Dr. Connor as we close Black History Month 2024 and continue our work throughout the remainder of the year.

(By Dr. Eddie Connor)

MLK Jr. Day Remarks

The question that we must ask ourselves today at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Celebration is "What can I do to make the world a better place?" Not just presently but for future generations. There indeed is a great work for all of us to do. We must labor and be faithful to be fruitful in order to reap a plentiful harvest.

He expressed that life's most persistent and urgent question must be. "What are you doing for others?" Dr. King's ultimate societal goal was the achievement of structuring a nonviolent beloved community that would embrace those of various ethnicities and backgrounds to all be seated at the table of brotherhood.

Dr. King declared "Poverty is the bride of crime." We look at the disease of violence and mass incarceration but we must unmask it to analyze societal symptoms. The symptoms are poverty, lack of education, dilapidation of communities, unseemly blight, gentrification, and redlining are the symptoms that create the disease and dis-ease that we see.

His decision to speak out against the tyranny of the Vietnam War made him a marked man more than ever before. Dr. King spoke about the triple evils of racism, militarism, and materialism seeking to redistribute the wealth in the Black community through group economics.

When Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, his popularity was at its lowest and the threats on his life were at its highest. His name was ran through the streets and now we name the streets after him.

Dr. King was not killed because he had a dream. He was killed because he spoke out about the nightmare in these yet to be United States of America. He became the moral conscience of America. He challenged our nation and even the world in a greater context, to "Learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." He proclaimed "The true measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of crisis, challenge, and controversy."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., challenged us despite race, creed, or color to come together, stay together and work together. Simply because coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress but working together is success.

HONORING TOM SKILLING

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 1, 2024

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of the most renowned

and beloved figures in Chicago, meteorologist Tom Skilling. Tom, a 9th Congressional District resident, has worked for 45 years on WGN-TV, enthusiastically and accurately providing weather forecasts to Chicagoland. His lifelong passion for weather and his connection with his audience has earned him a place in the hearts and history of this city and beyond. I am proud and honored to call him a friend. As he embarks on his well-deserved retirement and starts his next chapter, we offer our sincerest gratitude for bringing his sunshine to our TV screens for decades.

I commend Tom Skilling for his unrelenting and contagious dedication to the weather. As a boy growing up on the East Coast, he studied weather maps purchased with his allowance. Tom moved to Aurora, Illinois in 7th grade and brought with him a passion for meteorology so strong he had to share it with the world. At only 14 years old, Tom gave the forecast on the local radio station WKKD before attending class at West Aurora High School.

Upon completing his studies in meteorology and journalism at the University of Wisconsin, Tom embarked on a career that made him a Chicago area legend. Joining the team at WGN-TV, Tom accomplished what no other did before him—he didn't just say what the weather was, he told us why it was happening. Bringing a level of accessibility and authenticity like no other, Tom connected with viewers' hearts and minds.

Tom's last day on the air brought a 70-degree day in February, followed by rain and strong winds and a steep drop in temperatures. Tom speaks with tremendous knowledge and gravitas about climate change science, and the dangers of not acting to protect our planet. He has travelled across the country, including to Washington, to talk about "climate disruption," and led a special series on WGN called Forecast—A Fragile Climate. He speaks about climate change frequently. I know first hand, since we participated together in a climate change forum several years ago.

He has and earned honorary doctorates at universities and colleges, but I'm sure none of those mean as much to Tom as the love and admiration of the millions of viewers who have trusted him to tell them about their weather and their environment for the last 45 years.

As his next chapter arrives Tom's lifetime love for weather persists. We are grateful for Tom's dedication and contribution to this city, and he will always be revered as Chicago's weatherman.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BARBARA ANN GUARDINO

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 1, 2024

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Barbara Ann Guardino who died on January 29, 2024, at the age of 90. Barbara was born in Lawton, Oklahoma to Everett and Velta Server on January 11, 1934, and was one of four children.

Barbara and her family moved to San Jose, California when she was 13 years old. She graduated from James Lick High School where she met Richard Venture Guardino.